Allison Formanack, PhD

Community Partnerships and Initiatives (2020-2024)

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Prospect on Main

Prospect on Main is an applied ethnographic field school project in collaboration with a local community partner to create an archived special collection of materials spanning nearly 100 years of history of a downtown building that housed several different businesses. The project aims to teach curatorial and archiving skills while addressing the complex racial and religious history of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. This family-based initiative brings together material culture, museum collections, and critical race theory to offer a comprehensive and insightful exploration of the community's shared heritage.

Borrower's Stories: Alternative Home Financing

As part of the Pew Charitable Trust's *Housing Policy Initiative*, "Borrower's Stories" is an ethnographic and qualitative storytelling project whose objective is to share the stories of 10 homeowners across the US who used alternative home financing to purchase their homes. As the initial director for this collaborative project, my responsibilities included designing the participant screening questionnaire and semi-structured interview tool, creating and distributing recruitment materials, and fostering relationships between Pew and affordable housing advocates in different geographic and demographic contexts.

The People of Edwards Street

In partnership with the Edwards Street Fellowship Center, this service-learning project began in January 2022 and concluded in August 2022, and included students in two consecutive semesters of *Applied Anthropology* and *Ethnographic Field Methods*. The primary deliverable of this project was a visual ethnographic narrative modeled on the popular web series, *Humans of New York*, that profiled the clients of the Edwards Street food pantry and thrift store. A final report was delivered to the 501(c)(3) in August 2022.

Diabetes Navigator Grant

In partnership with the Coastal Family Health Center (CFHC) in Biloxi, Mississippi, this service-learning project began in November 2020 and concluded in May 2021, and included students in an online (synchronous) section of *Applied Anthropology*, as well as two MA/MPH students conducting post-project internships with CFHC. The goal of this collaborative project was to deliver a rapid ethnographic assessment to support the Center's *Diabetes Navigator Grant*, which aims to improve outcomes for patients diagnosed with Type-2 diabetes and at least one co-morbidity. This assessment included: quantitative client surveys, semi-structured interviews with patients, and research on the social determinants of health.

Community Partners (2011-2019)

- Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) Federal Programs
- United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County
- People's City Mission (Lincoln)
- Food Bank of Lincoln
- Lincoln NeighborWorks
- Lincoln Community Health Endowment (CHE)
- Senior Housing Helpers
- MHAction
- Boulder Affordable Housing Research Initiative (BAHRI)
- Nebraska Children & Families Foundation
- Jubilee Park & Community Center (Dallas, TX)
- Voices of Hope (Dallas, Tx)
- Lincoln Land Institute I'M HOME Network (fmr. Prosperity Now)